

**In the specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9, with:

In communications networks, signalling equipment and signalling channels are required for the exchange of signalling information between network nodes. This signalling information informs the network nodes of line state changes, dialed ~~dialed~~ digits and metering information of communication channels, for example voice channels.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10, with:

The method of transporting CAS from the TDM card to the DSP for processing is in ATM AAL1 cells over a backplane. Within each cell each timeslot of CAS data includes four binary data bits for the communication channel to which it corresponds, as well as framing and synchronisation bits. The four binary data bits contain information relating to line state changes, dialed ~~dialed~~ digits and metering information.